

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /044 W

-----109138 150709Z /64

R 140604Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

SECSTATE WASHDC 7398

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0668

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, SF, US

SUBJECT: EUGUENE HUGO -- THE ARGUS VIEW

1. GROUP FOREIGN EDITOR OF ARGUS, NEWSPAPER CHAIR RAMSEY MILNE, CALLED BPAO MARCH 8 TO DISCUSS CASE OF EUGUENE HUGO. MILNE SAYS ARGUS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE MISINTERPRETATION OF ARGUS DECISION TO REPLACE HUGO AS WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF. MILNE IMPLIED THAT POSSIBLY USG DID NOT UNDERSTAND REALITIES OF SITUATION, IN VIEW OF REPORT THAT GOOD-BYE PARTY FOR HUGO AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB MARCH 2 WAS REPORTEDLY ATTENDED BY HODDING CARTER AND "REPRESENTATIVE OF VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE." ARGUS GROUP PLANNING SEND LETTER TO AMBASSADOR BOWDLER "TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT."

2. MILNE SAID DECISION TO REPLACE HUGO WAS MADE "AT LEAST MONTH BEFORE" SAG INFORMATION MINISTRY LEAKED TO "DIE VADERLAND" STORY ABOUT ALLEGED HUGO INDISCRETIONS (JOHANNES-
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BURG USINFO 0394). ARGUS WAS UNSATISFIED WITH HUGO'S WORK PERFORMANCE WHICH EDITORS CLAIMED TO BE "PARTISAN". MILNE SAID ARGUS ASKED FOR EXPLANATION BY HUGO ABOUT CONTENTS OF SEVERAL OF HIS DISPATCHES, BUT HAD NOT RECEIVED SATISFACTORY REPLY. "IT WAS NOT HIS POLITICS, IT WAS HIS ABYSMAL WRITING THAT MADE US DECIDE TO REPLACE HUGO," SAID MILNE.

3. MILNE ENDED SAYING INCIDENT "HAD GOTTEN TOTALLY OUT OF HAND" IN PRESS AND THIS PROBABLY REFLECTS "FEVER HEAT" IN RELATIONS BETWEEN RSA AND USA.

4. ARGUS PLANS TO REPLACE HUGO TEMPORARILY WITH HUGH ROBERTON FROM NEW YORK.
GOLINO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JOHANN00668
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780114-0953
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780372/aaaaciwo.tel
Line Count: 70
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3343381
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: EUGUENE HUGO -- THE ARGUS VIEW
TAGS: SOPN, SF, US, ARGUS, (HUGO, EUGENE)
To: CAPE TOWN STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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